

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ational Application No
/IB2004/002496

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 B41J3/407 B41M5/34 B41J11/00 B41J11/70 B41J11/66

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 B41J B41M

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/077099 A1 (OGAWA KIYOSHI ET AL) 24 April 2003 (2003-04-24) paragraph '0171!	1-6, 47
A	-----	33-35
X	US 5 585 320 A (TSUTSUI KYOJI ET AL) 17 December 1996 (1996-12-17) claim 1; figure 3	9-35, 46
A	-----	1-6, 47
A	EP 0 809 212 A (BROTHER IND LTD) 26 November 1997 (1997-11-26) abstract	1-6
X	-----	9-24, 27, 31, 34, 46
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 0174, no. 83 (M-1472), 2 September 1993 (1993-09-02) & JP 05 116470 A (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD), 14 May 1993 (1993-05-14) abstract	14
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 March 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

17.03.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040 Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Wehr, W

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 587 732 A (KOKUBO HIDEYUKI) 24 December 1996 (1996-12-24)	10,19, 20, 36-41,46
A	column 4, line 41 - column 5,- paragraph 1; figure 1 -----	27
X	US 2001/055044 A1 (MATSUMOTO NOBUO ET AL) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27) paragraph '0048!; figures 6,7 paragraph '0052! paragraph '0059! -----	48-58
X	EP 1 006 000 A (AGFA GEVAERT NV ; ESSELTE NV (BE)) 7 June 2000 (2000-06-07) paragraph '0002! paragraph '0004!; figure 13 -----	62-65
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 0141, no. 81 (M-0961), 11 April 1990 (1990-04-11) & JP 02 032892 A (FUJI PHOTO FILM CO LTD), 2 February 1990 (1990-02-02) abstract -----	1,5-10, 46
A	US 2003/072597 A1 (SOMENO MASAHIRO) 17 April 2003 (2003-04-17) paragraph '0067!; figure 5 -----	48,58

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Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

 2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

 3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
- 1-58, 62-65
-
4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-47

label printer, tape supply and tape printer

1.1. claims: 1-6

label printer for printing text image and background image

1.2. claims: 7-8

label printer comprising a print head having a plurality of printing elements, wherein at least some of them are commonly controlled

1.3. claims: 9-35

tape supply comprising a plurality of thermally activated colourants and at least one developer

1.4. claims: 36-47

tape printer and method of printing for producing a multicoloured image on a tape by direct thermal transfer

2. claims: 48-58

label printer comprising a cutting means for providing a cut on either side of a region between first and second labels

3. claims: 59-61

method of printing by initially printing on one side of a partial cut and subsequently printing on another side of said partial cut

4. claims: 62-65

label printer comprising printing means having a length being greater than a corresponding dimension of a label

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International Application No
PCT/IB2004/002496

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